

NH Fire Protection Technician Voluntary Certification Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Committee members present: Christopher Burns, Len Daniels, John Mooney, Larry Thibodeau, Robert Musil,

Staff Liaison: Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Farley,

Absent: Richard Driscoll, Richard Giguere, Steve Mango, Butch Burbank, Jerry McCarthy

Meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m.

Deputy Farley distributed the February Meeting Minutes, which were recorded by Mr. Mango and were completed by Deputy Farley, and the March Meeting Minutes. Also distributed by Deputy Farley were the January minutes, (noted: January minutes are one (1) page). All minutes were distributed to committee members and the gallery.

Committee requested a few minutes to review the March meeting minutes. It was determined there was not a quorum present to entertain a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Approval of meeting minutes was tabled for the next meeting in May.

ECBA met; the next meeting for the ECBA was noted as scheduled for May 11, 2007. The ECBA may have items for discussion, though it was noted they were mainly housekeeping items and possibly definitions.

Saf-C 1202.04 was discussed; it was noted that the language of "detection systems" was deleted; it was determined that it appeared to be redundant; it was recommended that language that was consistent with the statute should be utilized.

The date for the next meeting date was discussed in consideration of committee member's being unavailable for the previously scheduled date; the next meeting date was scheduled for May 16, 2007.

Saf-C 1208.01 Continuing Education (CE) was discussed at length.

"Fire extinguisher installer" criteria was discussed regarding approved courses. Manufacturer's course offerings were noted. Curriculum was discussed at length for certification and re-certification. It was determined that "or additional courses as may be approved by the Commissioner upon recommendation by the Advisory Committee" would be the language recommended.

It was noted that many associations offer many types of training programs, however, a course would only be deemed appropriate if it meets the criteria of the advisory committee.

Further, training and continuing education programs are offered by many systems providers; again it was noted that the course content would need to be approved by the advisory committee.

It was discussed, as an example, that Vermont does not specify which provider's training applicants need to attend for certification. It was also discussed that Vermont's program is mandatory, versus New Hampshire's pending voluntary certification program.

Courses may be approved manufacturer's courses provided that it encompasses the required components as determined by the committee.

The paragraph, as it reads now, states “conducted by recognized industry professional groups” would encompass the various disciplines. Also, considering “The state fire marshal may adopt...” language would provide for acceptance of different requirements.

Availability of courses was discussed. It was noted that if there are requirements for continuing education, providers may decide to offer a course or other companies may begin to offer classes to meet criteria as specified and that is germane to the industry.

The term “professional development”, as opposed to “continuing education” was determined to be overly broad.

It was determined not to define continuing education “units” as to what would qualify as a “unit”, rather to leave the continuing education to “hours”. Utilizing an “hour” format would be consistent common language.

It was discussed that each discipline should bring a “proposed number of hours” to the next meeting.

The Fire Marshal’s office will make a determination regarding relevancy of course offerings; a summary sheet for re-certification for number of hours spent in courses was discussed as a possibility.

Consensus of committee was to “move forward”.

Saf-C 1202.15 “Technicians” was discussed; it was determined by the committee to use “fire alarm and detection systems technician” to keep the language uniform throughout the document.

List of items that needed to be reviewed was discussed at the last meeting. The last two items to be reviewed by the committee were: Continuing Education, which was discussed, and “acceptance and approval of training programs and fees”.

By request, language from heating technician’s requirements were distributed and discussed. The process currently provides that the entity or organization that wants to have the training program accepted provides documentation to the Fire Marshal’s Office and, with the acceptance of the committee, the curriculum, statement of what discipline they want it to be approved for, copy of educational materials provided with that program, statement of the integrity and proctoring of the exams, and educational subject matter to be provided in the test is all available for review; the heating technician’s requirements were provided as a sample only of the mandatory program. It was recommended that each entity that wants to provide a training program should submit a copy of the curriculum to the Fire Marshal’s Office; cross-disciplinary programs could be accepted; the committee would review submissions and determine relevancy and evaluate for whether or not they meet or exceed minimum criteria.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.